

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An airbag module for protecting an occupant of a vehicle from impact, the airbag module comprising:

- an inflator that produces pressurized gas in response to receipt of an activation signal;
- a cushion that receives the pressurized gas and inflates to receive the impact; and
- a cover assembly comprising a cover shaped to cover the cushion, the cover having a first opening, an emblem comprising a panel having a decorative surface and a first protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the first protrusion comprises a distal end shaped to pass through the opening, and a backing member insertable into engagement with the first protrusion in a direction generally parallel to the panel to restrict withdrawal of the distal end through the opening, the backing member comprising a first locking member disposed to restrict withdrawal of the backing member from engagement with the protrusion, wherein the backing member comprises a first slot comprising a first end and a second end, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein the first locking member comprises a first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 2 (original): The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the cushion is shaped to provide driver's side, front impact protection and the cover is attached to a steering wheel of the vehicle.

Claim 3 (original): The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the distal end is larger than the proximal end in at least one direction perpendicular to an axis of the first protrusion.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The airbag module of claim 1 4, wherein the backing member further comprises a second slot and a second locking member, the second slot comprising a first end and a second end, wherein the second slot is sized to receive a proximal end of a second protrusion of the emblem to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the second protrusion, wherein the second locking member is disposed to restrict withdrawal of the backing member from engagement with the second protrusion.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the backing member further comprises a support member extending generally parallel to the panel, wherein the support member is shaped to resist damage to the cover during deployment.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A fastening assembly for enhancing an appearance of a cover for covering a cushion of an airbag module for protecting an occupant of a vehicle from impact, the fastening assembly comprising:

an emblem comprising a panel having a decorative surface and a first protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the first protrusion comprises a distal end shaped to pass through a first opening of the cover; and

a backing member insertable into engagement with the first protrusion in a direction generally parallel to the panel to restrict withdrawal of the distal end through the first opening, wherein the backing member is lockable to restrict withdrawal of the backing member from engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the backing member comprises a first slot comprising a first end and a second end, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein a first locking member comprises a first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 13 (original): The fastening assembly of claim 12, wherein the distal end is larger than the proximal end in at least one direction perpendicular to an axis of the first protrusion.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): The fastening assembly of claim 13, wherein the backing member comprises a first slot and a second slot, each of which comprises a first end and a second end, wherein the first slot is sized to receive the proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion and the second slot is sized to receive a proximal end of a second protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the second protrusion comprises a distal end shaped to pass through a second opening of the cover,

wherein the first and second slots are disposed such that rotation of the backing member induces the proximal ends of the first and second protrusions to move along the first and second slots, respectively, toward the second ends thereof to lock engagement of the backing member with the protrusions.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A fastening assembly for enhancing an appearance of a cover for covering a cushion of an airbag module for protecting an occupant of a vehicle from impact, the fastening assembly comprising:

an emblem comprising a panel having a decorative surface and a protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the protrusion comprises a distal end shaped to pass through an opening of the cover; and

a backing member comprising a slot having an open end such that the slot is insertable into engagement with the protrusion in a direction generally parallel to the panel such that the backing member restricts withdrawal of the distal end through the opening, wherein the backing member comprises a first slot comprising a first end and a second end, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of a first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein a first locking member comprises a first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 18 (original): The fastening assembly of claim 17, wherein the distal end is larger than the proximal end in at least one direction perpendicular to an axis of the first protrusion.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A backing member for a fastening assembly for fastening an article proximate an opening of a wall, the article comprising a panel and a first protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the first protrusion comprises a proximal end adjacent to the panel and a distal end shaped to pass through the opening, the backing member comprising:

a plate comprising a first slot sized to receive the proximal end to provide engagement of the article by the backing member, the first slot having a first end and a second end; and

a first tab disposed to abut the distal end in response to motion of the proximal end from the first end to the second end of the first slot to restrict motion of the proximal end toward the first end, wherein the backing member comprises a first slot comprising a first end and a second end, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein a first locking member comprises a first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 22 (original): The backing member of claim 21, wherein the wall comprises an airbag cover and the article comprises an emblem comprising a decorative surface, wherein the plate is shaped to resist damage to the cover during deployment.

Claim 23 (original): The backing member of claim 22, further comprising an arch extending generally parallel to the panel and substantially coextensive with a portion of the panel.

Claim 24 (original): The backing member of claim 21, wherein the plate further comprises a second tab and a second slot sized to receive a proximal end of a second protrusion extending from the panel to further provide engagement of the article by the backing member,

wherein the second tab is disposed to abut a distal end of the second protrusion in response to motion of the proximal end of the second protrusion from the first end to the second end of the second slot to restrict motion of the proximal end of the second protrusion toward the first end of the second slot.

Claim 25 (original): The backing member of claim 24, wherein the first and second slots are disposed such that rotation of the backing member induces the proximal ends of the first and second protrusions to move along the first and second slots, respectively, toward the second ends thereof.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for fastening an emblem to a cover for covering a cushion of an airbag module for protecting an occupant of a vehicle from impact, the cover comprising a first opening, the emblem comprising a panel having a decorative surface and a first protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the protrusion comprises a distal end shaped to pass through the first opening, the backing member comprising a first slot having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is open, the method comprising:

inserting the distal end through the first opening;

sliding the backing member in a direction generally parallel to the panel such that the proximal end of the first protrusion enters the first end of the first slot; and

further sliding the backing member in the direction to move the proximal end from the first end to the second end to induce engagement of the first protrusion by the backing member to restrict withdrawal of the distal end through the first opening, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into

engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein the backing member comprises a first locking member, wherein the first locking member comprises a first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the cushion is shaped to provide driver's side, front impact protection and the cover is attached to a steering wheel of the vehicle, wherein sliding the backing member in the direction comprises sliding the backing member against an interior surface of the cover.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the backing member further comprises a support member extending generally parallel to the panel to resist damage to the cover during deployment, wherein sliding the backing member in the direction comprises disposing the support member to abut the interior surface.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the distal end is larger than the proximal end in at least one direction perpendicular to an axis of the first protrusion, wherein the backing member comprises a plate in which the slot is formed, wherein inducing engagement of the first protrusion by the backing member comprises disposing the distal end to abut the plate at a location proximate the slot.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 29, ~~wherein the backing member comprises a first locking member~~, the method further comprising locking the relative positions of the first protrusion and the first slot with the first locking member to restrict withdrawal of the backing member from engagement with the first protrusion.

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the first locking member comprises a tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein sliding the backing member in the direction comprises deflecting the tab and locking the relative positions of the first protrusion and the first slot comprises relieving deflection of the tab such that the tab abuts the distal end to block motion of the distal end toward the first end of the first slot.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 29, wherein the cover comprises a second opening and the backing member further comprises a ~~second~~ locking member and a second slot shaped to receive a second protrusion extending from the panel, wherein sliding the backing member in the direction comprises causing a proximal end of the second protrusion to enter a first end of the second slot, wherein further sliding the backing member in the direction comprises moving the proximal end of the second protrusion from the first end to a second end of the second slot to induce engagement of the second protrusion by the backing member to restrict withdrawal of the distal end of the second protrusion through the second opening.

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method for locking a backing member into engagement with an article proximate a first opening of a wall, ~~the~~ an emblem comprising a panel and a first protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the first protrusion comprises a proximal end adjacent to the panel and a distal end shaped to pass through the first opening, the backing member comprising a first slot having a first end and a second end, and a first tab, the method comprising:

deflecting the first tab in response to motion of the proximal end of the first protrusion toward the second end; and

relieving deflection of the first tab in response to further motion of the proximal end toward the second end such that the first tab blocks motion of the proximal end toward the first end of the first slot, wherein the first slot is sized to receive a proximal end of the first protrusion to enable insertion of the backing member into engagement with the first protrusion, wherein the

first end of the first slot is open such that the first end can be inserted into engagement with the proximal end via simple rectilinear translation of the backing member along the direction, toward the proximal end, wherein the backing member comprises a first locking member, wherein the first tab adjacent to the first slot, wherein the first tab is angled such that the first tab bends toward a position parallel with the first slot in response to motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 37, wherein the wall comprises an airbag cover and the article comprises an emblem comprising a decorative surface, the method further comprising inserting the distal end through the first opening prior to motion of the proximal end of the first protrusion toward the second end of the first slot.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim 38, ~~wherein the first end of the first slot is open~~, the method further comprising, prior to deflection of the first tab:

aligning the backing member with the proximal end; and

moving the backing member toward the proximal end such that the proximal end enters the first end of the first slot via simple rectilinear translation along a direction generally parallel to the panel.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein the emblem further comprises a second protrusion extending from the panel, wherein the second protrusion comprises a proximal end adjacent to the panel and a distal end shaped to pass through a second opening of the wall, the backing member comprising a second slot having a first end and a second end, and a second tab, the method further comprising:

rotating the backing member such that the proximal ends of the first and second protrusions pass from the first ends toward the second ends of the first and second slots, respectively;

deflecting the second tab in response to motion of the proximal end of the second

protrusion toward the second end of the second slot; and

relieving deflection of the second tab in response to further motion of the proximal end toward the second end of the second slot such that the second tab blocks motion of the proximal end toward the first end of the second slot.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 37, wherein the wall comprises a second opening and the backing member further comprises a second tab and a second slot shaped to receive a second protrusion extending from the panel, the method further comprising:

deflecting the second tab in response to motion of a proximal end of the second protrusion toward a second end of the second slot; and

relieving deflection of the second tab in response to further motion of the proximal end of the second protrusion toward the second end of the second slot such that the second tab blocks motion of the proximal end of the second protrusion toward the first end of the second slot.

Claim 42 (canceled)

Claim 43 (canceled)